HSK 4 Grammar 09: Prepositions

HSK 4 随着 and the abstract brackets 在 … 上 / 在 … 下, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Two preposition jobs

随着 ties one moving thing to another moving in step with it; 在 … 上 and 在 … 下 are abstract brackets — field and condition.

- Neither has anything to do with physical position.
- Formal, written flavour throughout.

The frame: 随着 + moving backdrop

Two things moving together

随着经济的发展，生活越来越好。(Suízhe jīngjì de fāzhǎn, shēnghuó yuèláiyuè hǎo.) — As the economy develops, life keeps getting better.

孩子们随着音乐跳起了舞。(Háizimen suízhe yīnyuè tiào qǐ le wǔ.) — The children started dancing along to the music.

Try it: the weather report

1. **The change you want to report** Colder weather, and more colds — one tracks the other.
2. **Build the backdrop 随着天气变冷** (suízhe tiānqì biàn lěng) — as the weather turns cold.
3. **Add what tracks it 感冒的人越来越多了** (gǎnmào de rén yuèláiyuè duō le) — more and more people are catching colds.
4. **Check the relationship** Two moving things, one pacing the other — the **随着** relationship.

Decision

Suízhe tiānqì biàn lěng, gǎnmào de rén yuèláiyuè duō le.

The bracket 在 … 上: in terms of

Framing the field

在这个问题上，我们的看法一样。(Zài zhège wèntí shàng, wǒmen de kànfǎ yíyàng.) — On this matter, our views are the same.

Also: 在历史上 “in history”, 在语法上 “grammatically”.

The bracket 在 … 下: under conditions

Framing the condition

在这种情况下，你会怎么做？(Zài zhè zhǒng qíngkuàng xià, nǐ huì zěnme zuò?) — Under these circumstances, what would you do?

Try it: 在小王的帮助下，我们按时完成了项目。(Zài Xiǎowáng de bāngzhù xià, wǒmen ànshí wánchéng le xiàngmù.) — With Xiao Wang's help, we finished the project on time.

On, under, in; and from whose view

Pattern	Meaning	Example
在 + place + 上	on	书在桌子上。— The book is on the table.
在 + place + 下	under	猫在椅子下面。— The cat is under the chair.
在 + place + 里	in	钥匙在包里。— The keys are in the bag.
对 + person + 来说	for, from someone's view	对我来说，这很难。— For me, this is hard.

Watch out: not real positions

在 … 上 picks the field

在语法上 — grammatically, in terms of grammar.

在 … 下 picks the condition

在老师的帮助下 — with the teacher's help.

Quick check

Your turn

What does 随 mean in 随着?

A. follow
B. change

Check yourself

Your turn

Which frame states a condition – 在 …… 下 or 在 …… 上?

A. 在 …… 下
B. 在 …… 上